

## John Ross to Andrew Jackson, September 15, 1834, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### JOHN ROSS TO JACKSON.

Head of Coosa, Cherokee Nation, September 15, 1834.

*Honored Sir*, Enclosed is a true Copy of a Communication handed me a day or two since, from two of your agents in this Nation. I beg leave to express to you my great astonishment at the import of its Contents, And also of my entire ignorance of the reasons which could have prompted you to have issued such an order. I am therefore left to form conjectures in my own mind on the subject, and which in the absence of facts may be erroneous. justice therefore, to others as well as to myself, require that I should forbear entertaining them, Until the true reasons are clearly made known. The Idea, that myself and the Council shall be held and made responsible for offences which by possibility may be committed by others on the emigrants or officers of the Govt. when at the same time we shall be as innocent of any Crime whatever, as any other living person in the World, is too horrible to conceive. That wicked spirit which at times have prompted base men to Create strife, Commit murder or Assassination Among their fellow men, I can assure you, have no abiding place in my breast. And I could have hoped, that you had known my general deportment and character too long and too well than to be persuaded in the belief that I could under any circumstances, be guilty of any criminal offence.

I have always been taught to believe, from the Treaties, laws and constitution of the United States that the whole Cherokee Nation were placed under the protection of the Genl. Govt., and that One branch of its members had as strong a claim upon that Govt. for protection as another and I am not aware that any portion of the members of the cherokee

## Library of Congress

nation having ever forfeited that protection. I cannot, and will not therefore, permit myself for a moment to believe that you, as the President of the United States, will refuse to extend evenhanded justice to the whole cherokee people. If the unfortunate affair which recently took place, respecting John Walker jr being shot, has been reported to you as having been done by the connivance or knowledge of myself and the Genl. Council of the nation, I pronounce it to be a malicious and slanderous falsehood against our character; and was no doubt intended to disturb the peace and tranquility of the Nation, and is altogether unworthy your Confidence, no matter by whomsoever reported.

It has been communicated to me within a few days since, by unquestionable authority, that Ben. F. Currey one of your Agents, has been heard to remark in the presence of a number of Walkers relatives that should he die of his wound that he, Currey, was determined to have "John Ross" killed, if he had to do it himself. The motive and object of this threat, is too obvious to be misunderstood. I take occasion to Communicate it to you, in Order that you may act on the subject as you may think proper. I love peace and friendship with all men, and hold myself individually responsible for my Own Acts, but do most solemnly protest against any responsibility for the private Conduct of Others.

With great respect, I am